

## Stewardship

### GROUNDING IN FAITH -- GROWING TO SERVE

We are entering the final 6 weeks of the Stewardship program for 2015. My thanks go out to all the church leaders who have presented Stewardship Seconds in the church services throughout the year. I hope you have enjoyed the Stewardship Seconds. Please take the time to look at the budget tree and notice all the flowers (budget areas) where our offerings are put to use. The budget tree has increased in color, as we've added the flowers representing the life of our many church ministries. Each week, the Stewardship Seconds provide an opportunity to hear about some aspect of the life and ministry of First Church using the resources that we provide in our regular offerings to the unified budget. As you will continue to hear each Sunday, FUMC has great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond your "regular" giving levels. Over the last couple of months, we have continued to "pick away" at our budget deficit. The congregation's response has been both positive and reassuring. I hope all of you have considered adding some incremental offerings to support all of these important ministries and missions. We still have time to make up the unified budget deficit.

When God gave David the vision that his son Solomon was going to build the temple, I can imagine that David's first thought was, "How will we get the finances to build this important place?" But as we read the story in 1 Chronicles 29, we find out that the people somehow provided what was necessary to complete the temple. David had a vision and the people (with God's help) provided the gifts. They did not all provide the same amounts of money, but they all provided the same amount of sacrifice. It's not about equal gifts – it's about equal sacrifice. And it's not a sacrifice unless it is personal. Stewardship is not everyone providing the same amount of money. Stewardship is about everyone making an equal and personal sacrifice for the glory of God, and for the missions and ministries of First Church.

During part of November's and December's "Stewardship Seconds", our emphasis will be on the Youth Department's ministry. FUMC's youth ministry has always been an important part of the church's overall financial support. After all, these young men and women will become future church leaders, and important contributors to Christ's witness and mission through out the world. During these Stewardship Seconds, you will hear from the youth and their leaders concerning topics such as weekend retreats, the "sleep out" for the homeless, the 4G youth ministry, the youth Sunday school program, and the confirmation process.

During November and December, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the "Youth Department Ministries Root". If we have our roots "**Grounded in Faith**", we will be able to "**Grow to Serve**".

